



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Steven M. Knowles

Art Unit : 3679

Serial No. : 09/982,928

Examiner : Victor L. MacArthur

Filed : October 22, 2001

Title : FLEXIBLE JOINT ASSEMBLY, SERVICE, AND SYSTEM USING A FLEXIBLE JOINT ASSEMBLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

In response to the action mailed September 16, 2002 ("Office Action"), please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 30-40 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 21-26 as follows:

21. (Amended) A flexible joint assembly comprising:

- a joint assembly inlet;
- a joint assembly outlet; and
- a fluid flow path between the inlet and the outlet, the fluid flow path including:
 - a first pivot joint configured to pivot about a first pivot (P1);
 - a second pivot joint configured to pivot about a second pivot (P2);

and

- a central fluid conductor fluidly coupling the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint, each of the first pivot joint and the second pivot joint including:
 - an inner member having a dimension (D) in a direction substantially normal to a path through each of the pivot joint assemblies' inlet and outlet;
 - a receiving member dimensioned to receive at least part of the inner member; and

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